

MATURE READERS

GABBORIN

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16

DIGITAL
RELEASE

CHARLES BAND'S

PUPPET MASTER



T+



50
YEARS

ACTION LAB: DANGER ZONE PRESENTS

CHARLES BAND'S

PUPPET MASTER

VACANCY
(1 OF 3)

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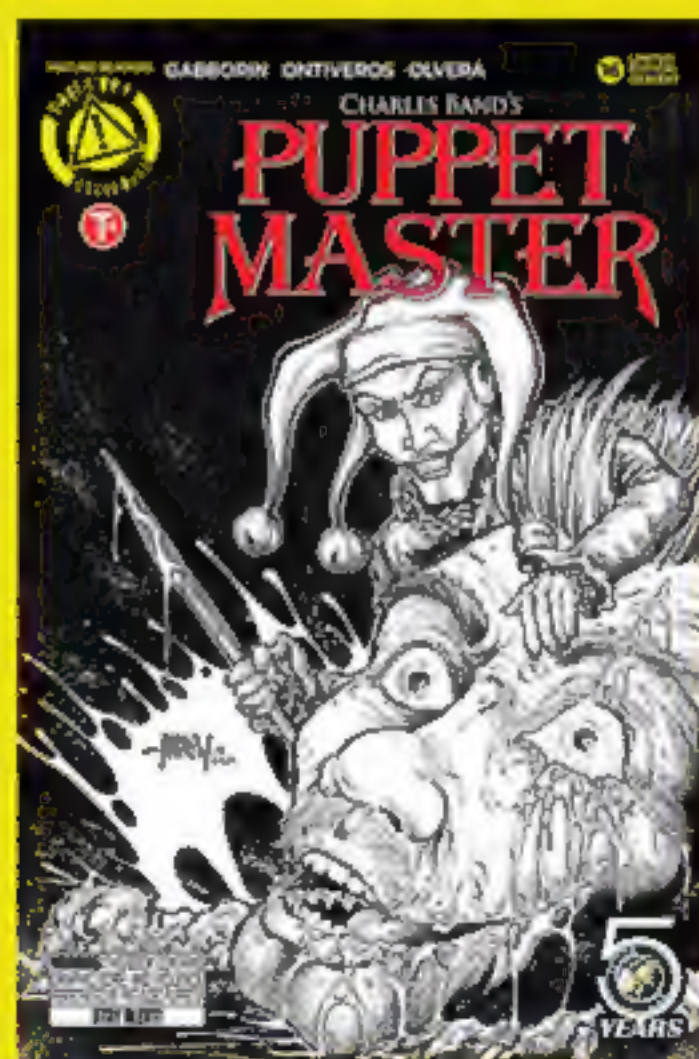
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REGULAR COVER



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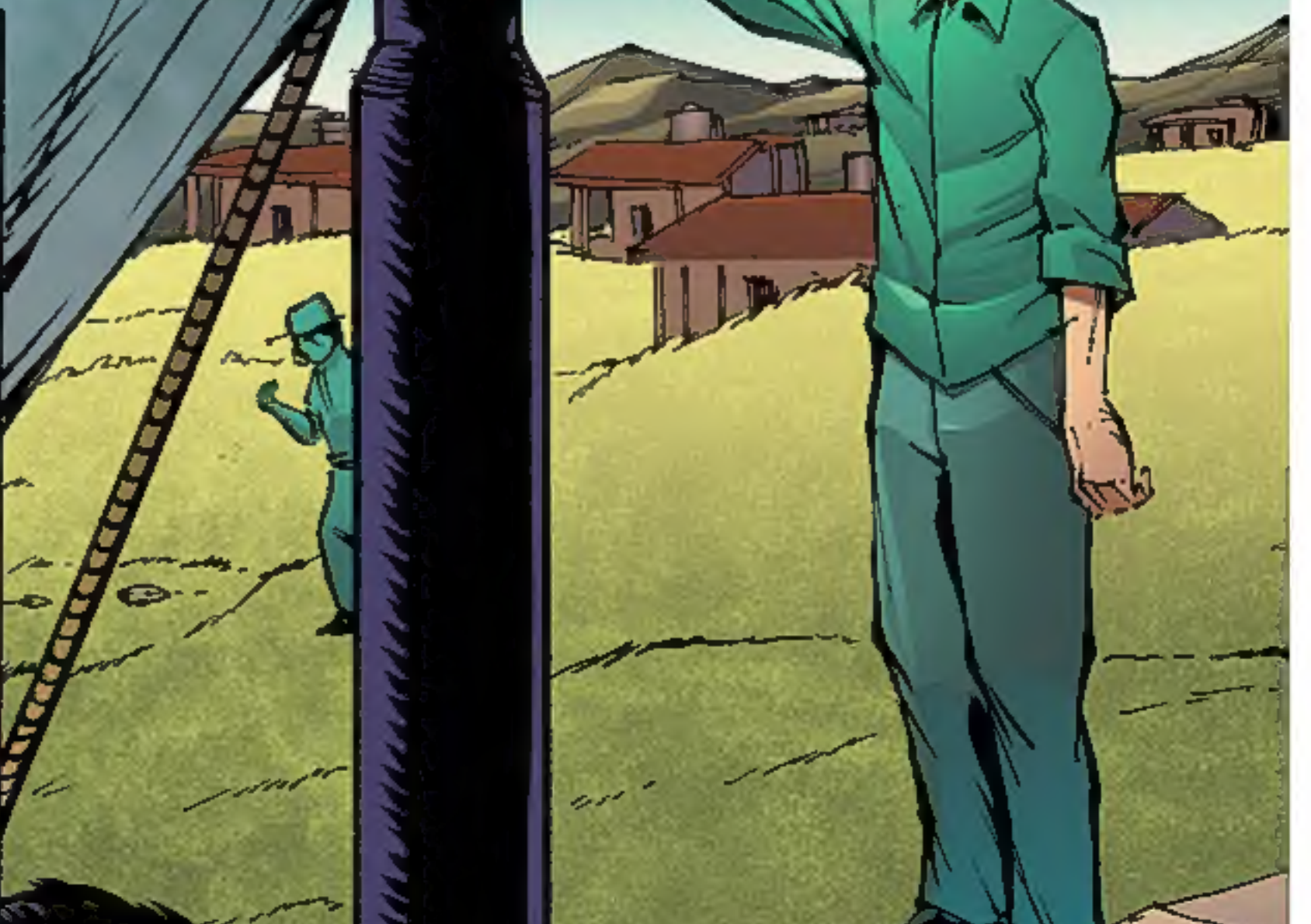


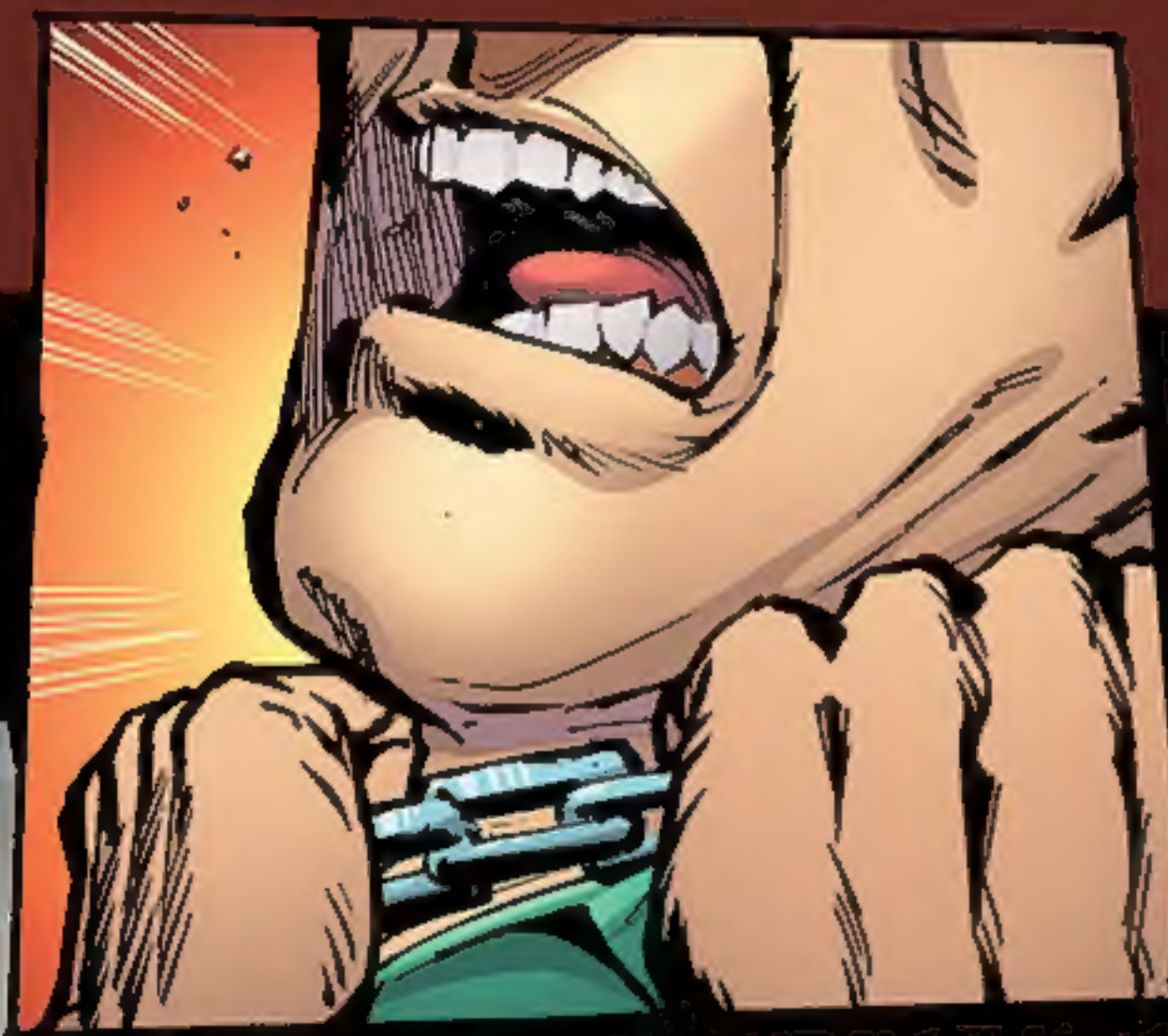
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NOT AGAIN...



NNAHH!

AH, I'M SO HAPPY YOU COULD JOIN ME.



NEIL...

YES, BUT I DON'T THINK EITHER OF US NEED TO STATE YOUR NAME, DO WE?

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BOUNCING AROUND BY NOW?



I... I...


I WAS ABLE TO PULL SOME STRINGS TO BRING YOU TO ME.

YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IF IT CAME TO US MEETING LIKE THIS THAT I WOULD WANT TO TAKE MY TIME AND ENJOY IT.




BUT YOU'RE NOT WORTH IT.


SIX MONTHS LATER.



IT HAS BEEN NEARLY SEVEN MONTHS SINCE WE DEFEATED ANAPA, AND THINGS HAVE BEEN QUIET. WELL, RELATIVELY.



I HAVE MANAGED TO MAKE SOME OF THE SERUM THAT KEEPS THE PUPPETS ALIVE.




I'M SO GLAD TOULON FOUND A WAY AROUND USING BRAINS AS AN INGREDIENT. I DON'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR THAT.


I'VE EVEN GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT PULLING EVERYONE INTO THE THEATER.



JESTER (HANS) SAYS IT'S PART OF MY PSYCHIC GIFT, TO MAKE A PLACE WHERE WE CAN MEET AND TALK.



BUT ANDRE TOULON NEVER COMES TO THE THEATER.



HE DOESN'T TALK TO ME AT ALL, NOT SINCE THE BATTLE WITH ANAPA.

I GUESS HE WANTS ME TO FIND MY OWN WAY AS PUPPET MASTER. HOPEFULLY KEEPING THIS JOURNAL WILL HELP.

ALTHOUGH NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED FOR US...

THE BODEGA BAY
INN HAS NEVER
LOOKED BETTER!





A COUPLE BY THE NAMES OF CINDY AND JOHN MAPLETHORPE BOUGHT THE INN, REFURBISHED IT, AND HAD IT UP AND RUNNING IN NO TIME.

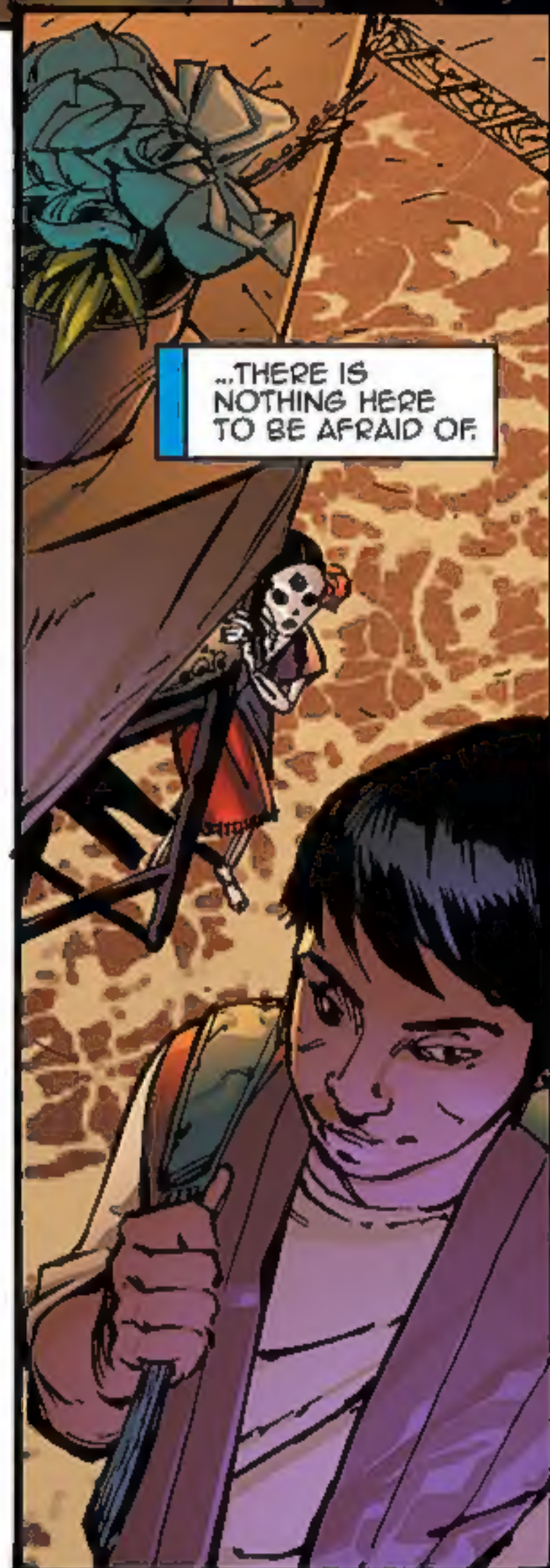
THE MAJORITY OF THE HOTEL IS STILL BEING RENOVATED, BUT WE DO HAVE ROOMS OPEN!



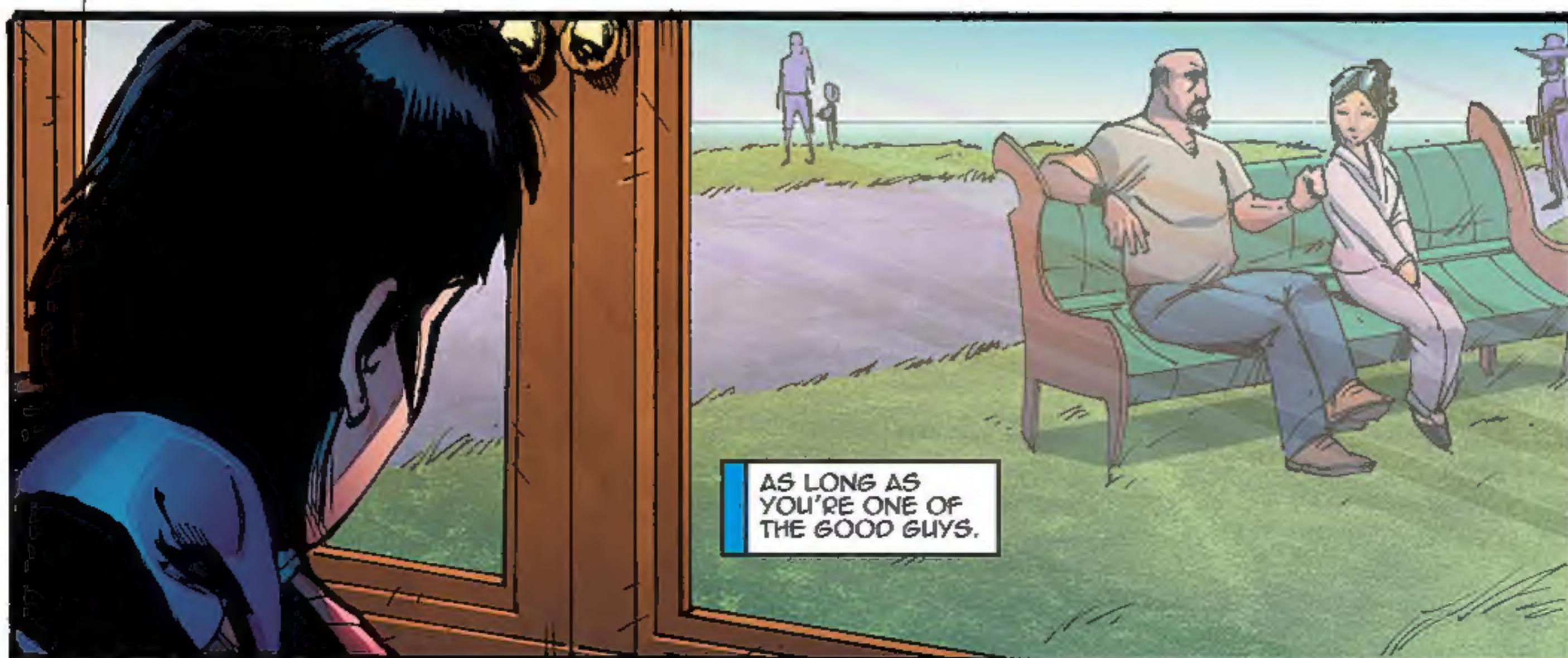
THE OLD STIGMA OF THE INN HAS FADED. FAMILIES COME HERE WITH NO FEAR!



AND AS LONG AS I'M IN CHARGE OF THE PUPPETS...



...THERE IS NOTHING HERE TO BE AFRAID OF.



AS LONG AS YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.



THE PUPPETS
KEEP EYES ON
EVERYONE IN THE
HOTEL FOR ME.

LIKE THE SHUMAKERS.

MRS. SHUMAKER WEARS A
SHALL TO HIDE HER BRUISES.
TODAY SHE ADDED SUNGLASSES...
ALMOST BIG ENOUGH TO
HIDE THE BACK EYE.

I'M SORRY TO
INTERRUPT, BUT YOU
HAVE A CALL, MRS.
SHUMAKER.

I'LL COME UP
WITH AN EXCUSE
LATER AS TO
WHY THERE'S
NO REAL CALL.

WHO THE
HELL IS
CALLING YOU
HERE?

I-I DON'T
KNOW.

MAKE IT
FAST.

I LIKE COMING
OUT HERE EARLY LIKE
THIS. NOT TOO MANY
PEOPLE AROUND.
THERE'S ROOM FOR
PRIVACY.

WHY ARE
YOU STILL
HERE?

YEAH.

WHY DO
YOU DO IT?

WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?





ANTHONY!
IT'S ABOUT
TIME YOU GOT
OUT OF BED,
MISTER.

I THINK THE MAPLETHORPES
FELT PITY FOR ME WHEN
THEY FOUND ME SQUATTING
IN THE HOTEL, SO THEY LET
ME STAY. BUT IT'S MORE
THAN THAT.

MY SHIFT
IS JUST
STARTING.

IT STARTED FIVE
MINUTES AGO, YOUNG
MAN. AND THOSE
DISHES AREN'T
GOING TO WASH
THEMSELVES.



THEY TREAT
ME LIKE A
SON. I LIKE IT.



SOMETIMES
I WORRY IF
IT CAN LAST.



MR. MAPLETHORPE...
I THINK YOU NEED TO
COME OUT HERE.



WHERE'D ALL
OF THESE PEOPLE
COME FROM?



MAY I HELP
YOU?

YES. I... AH...
I WOULD LIKE
A ROOM,
PLEASE.



ARE
YOU ALRIGHT?
YOU'RE
BLEEDING.

OH, YEAH.
I WAS... HIKING.
MISSED A STEP
AND TOOK A FALL.
NOTHING
MAJOR.



LOOK. I
DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOUR DEAL REALLY
IS, BUT YOU LOOK
LIKE YOU COULD USE
A GOOD NIGHT'S
SLEEP.

DEFINITELY
A SHOWER.

SHOW ME
SOME I.D. AND I'LL
GIVE YOU A ROOM
FOR THE NIGHT. IF
YOU LOOK CLEAN
TOMORROW, WE CAN
DISCUSS LETTING
YOU STAY
LONGER.

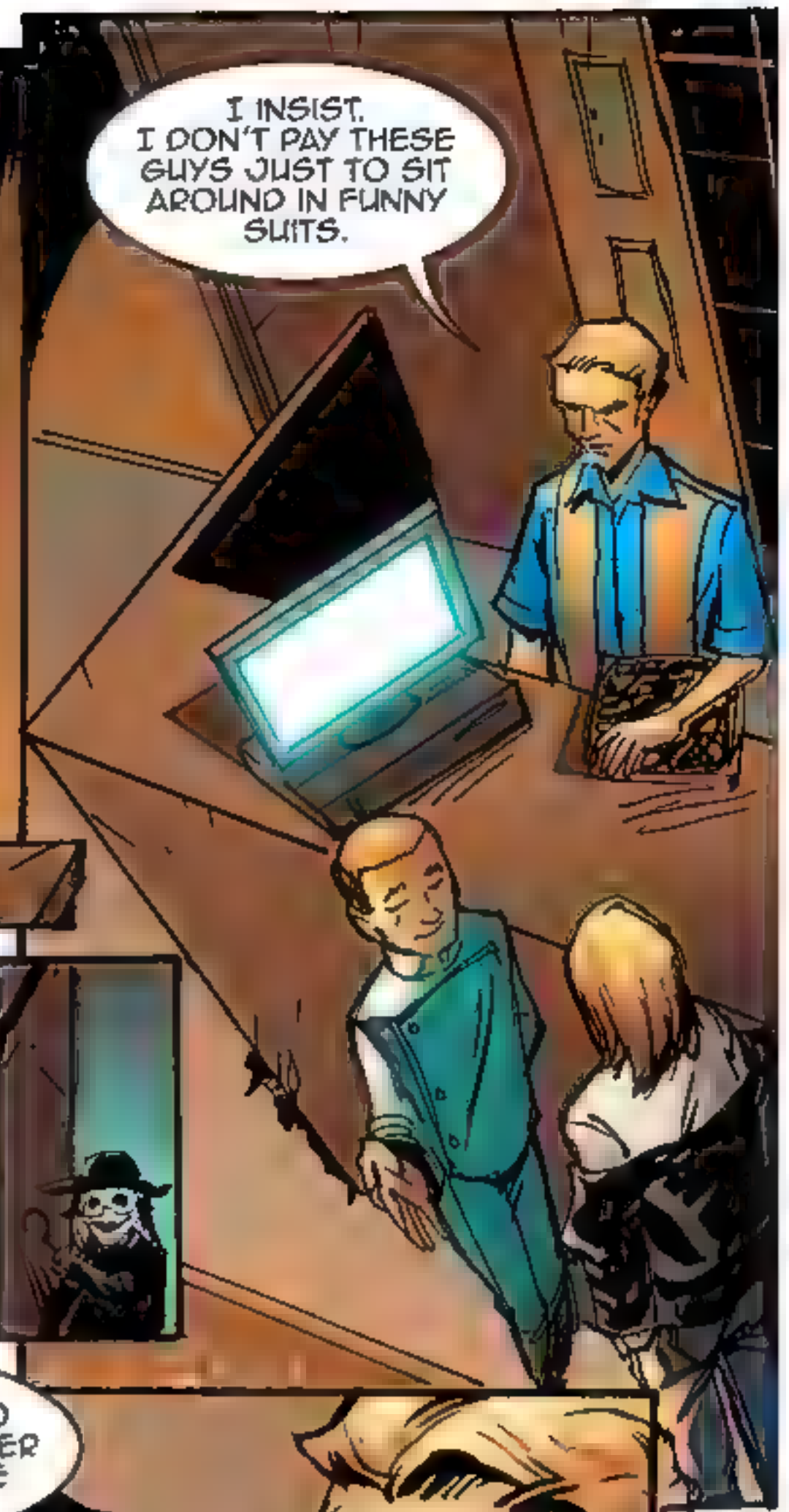
WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

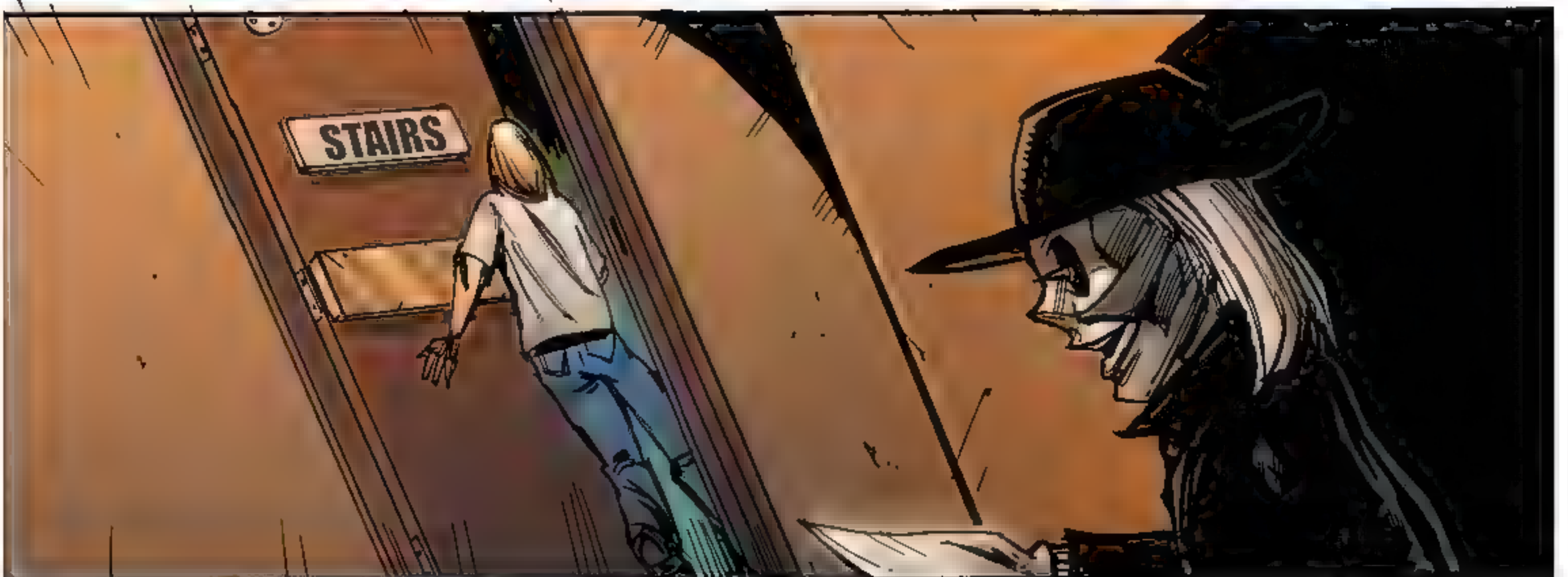
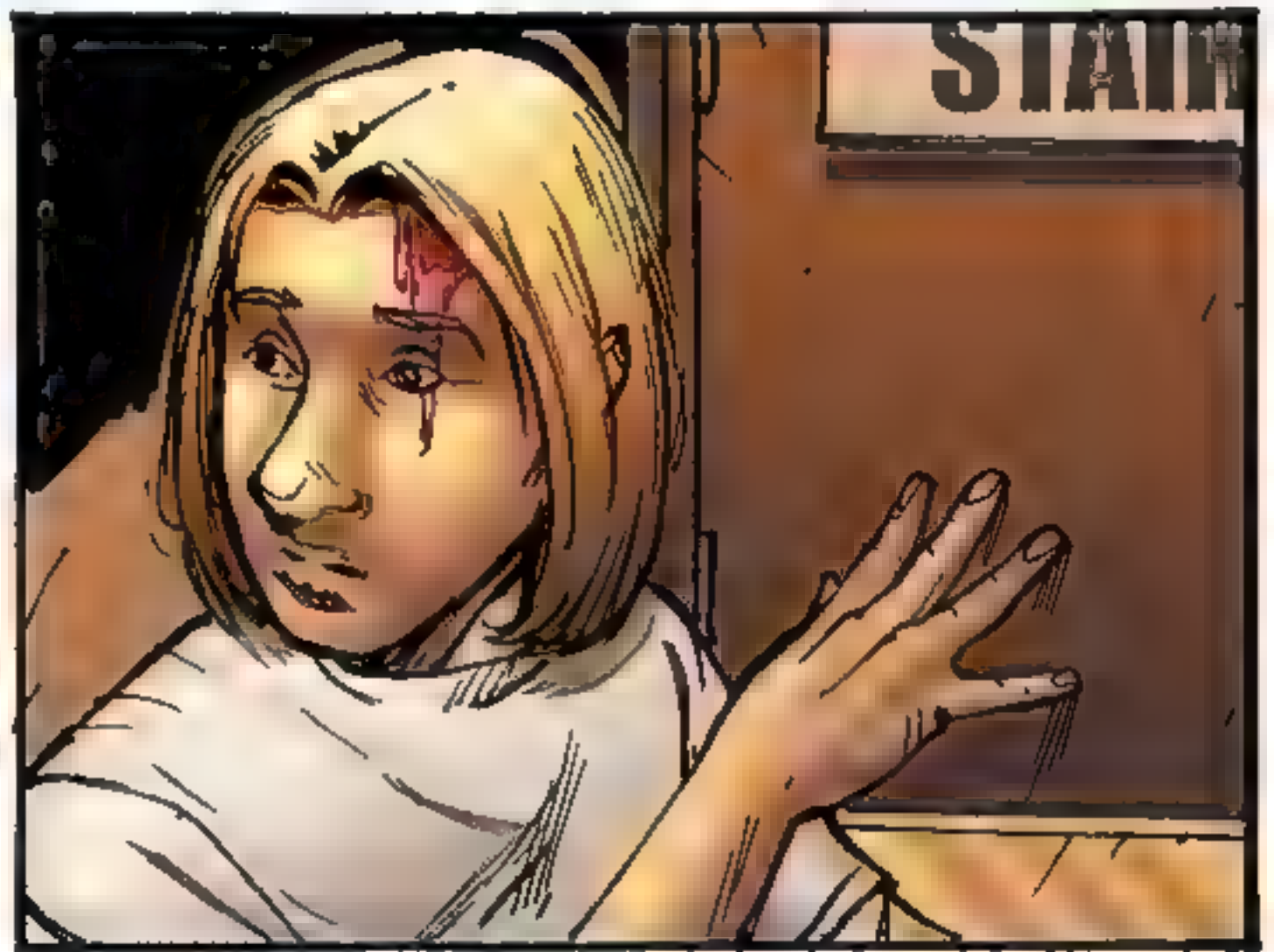
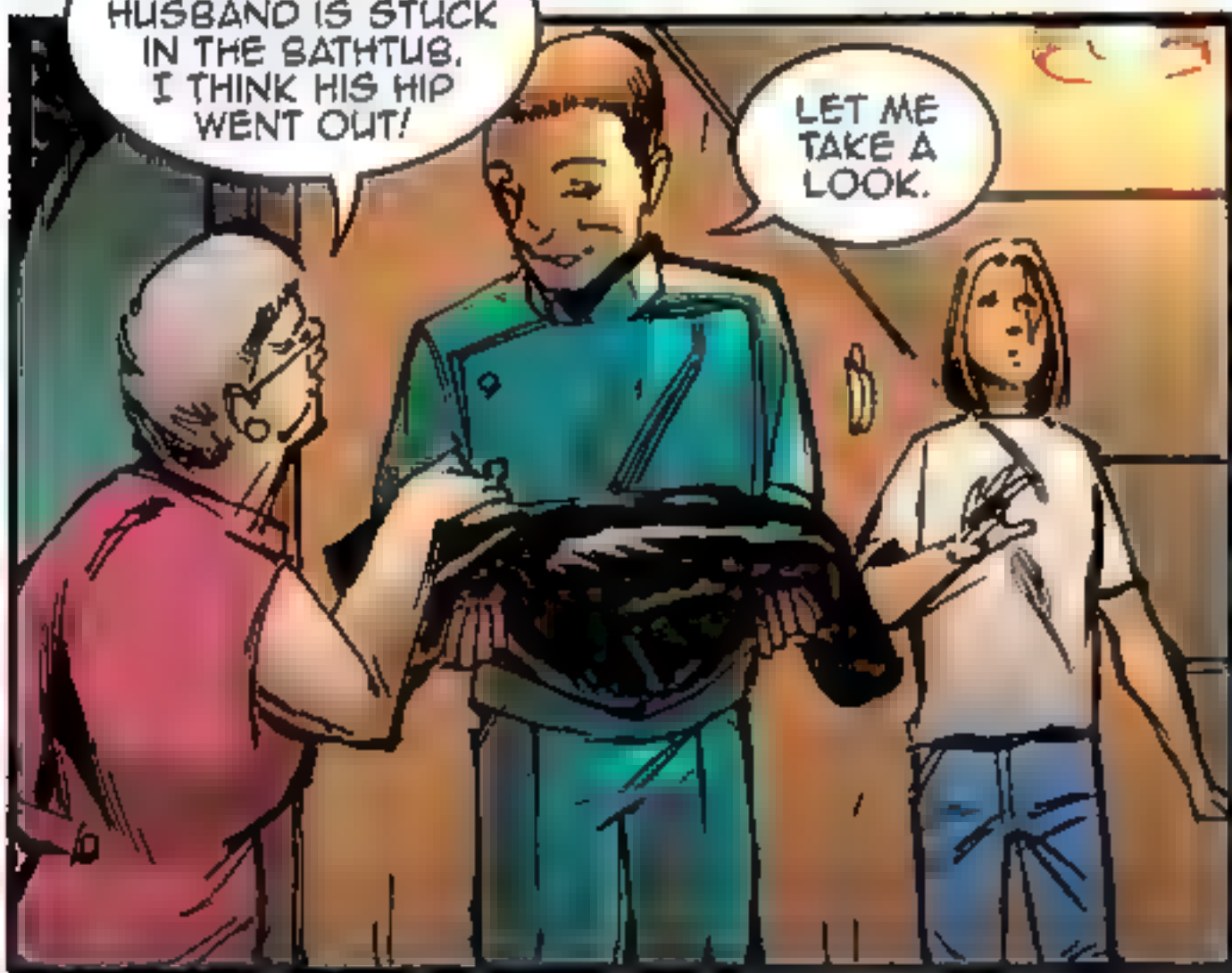
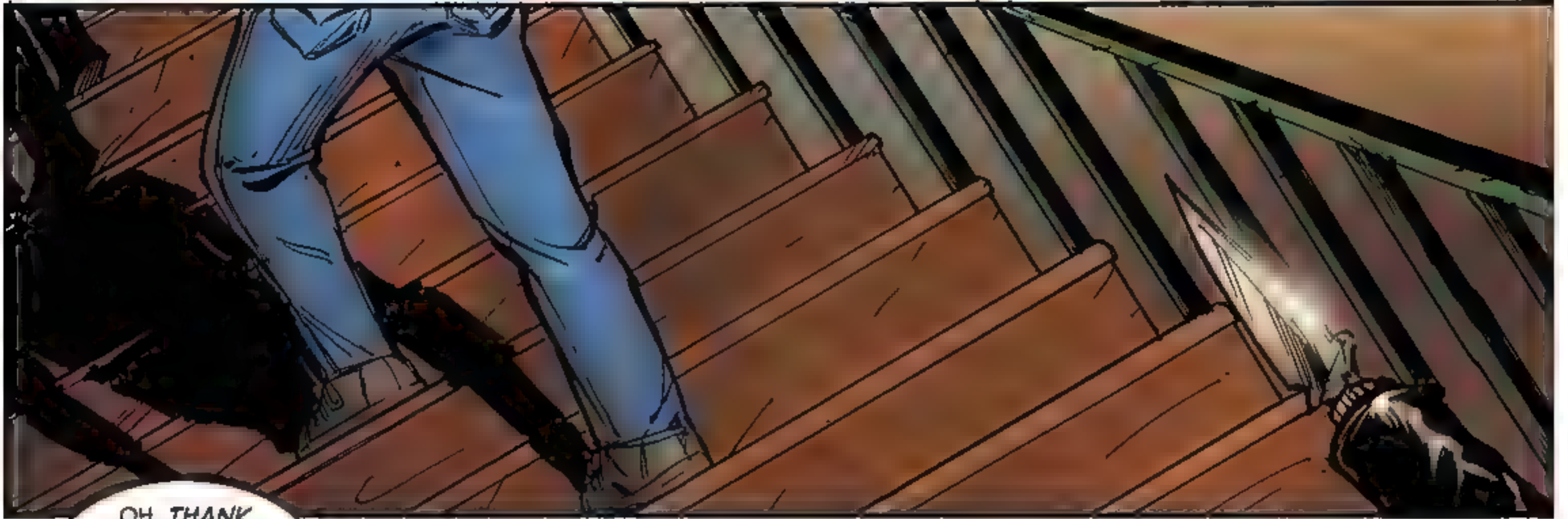
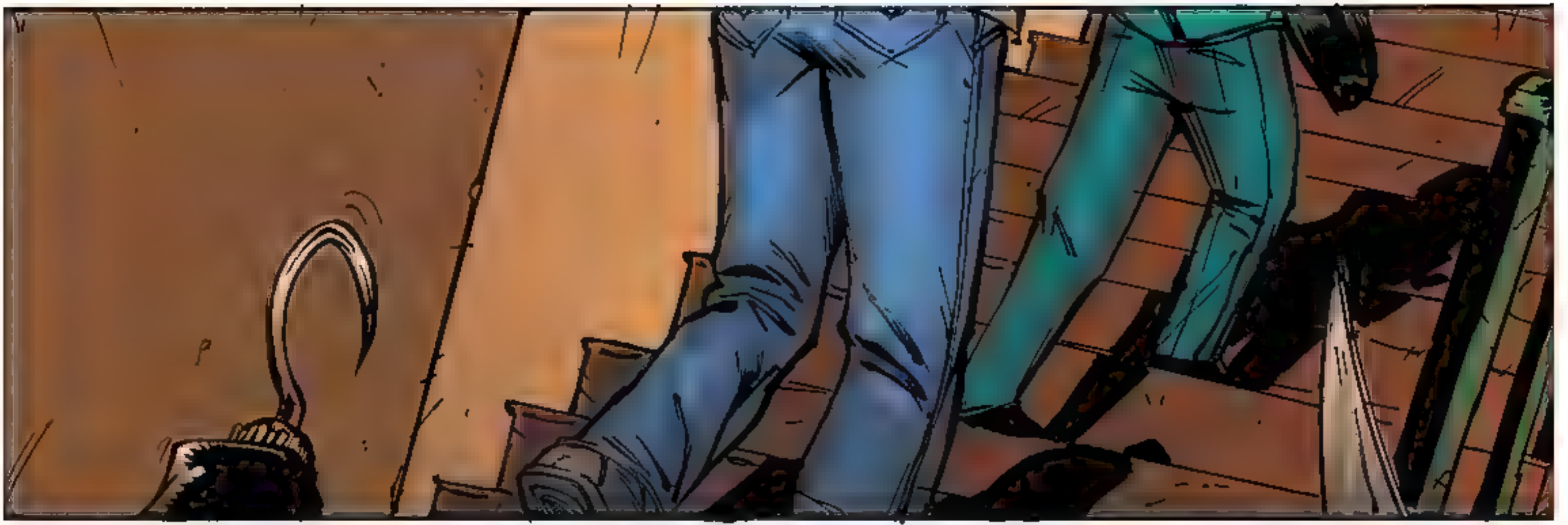


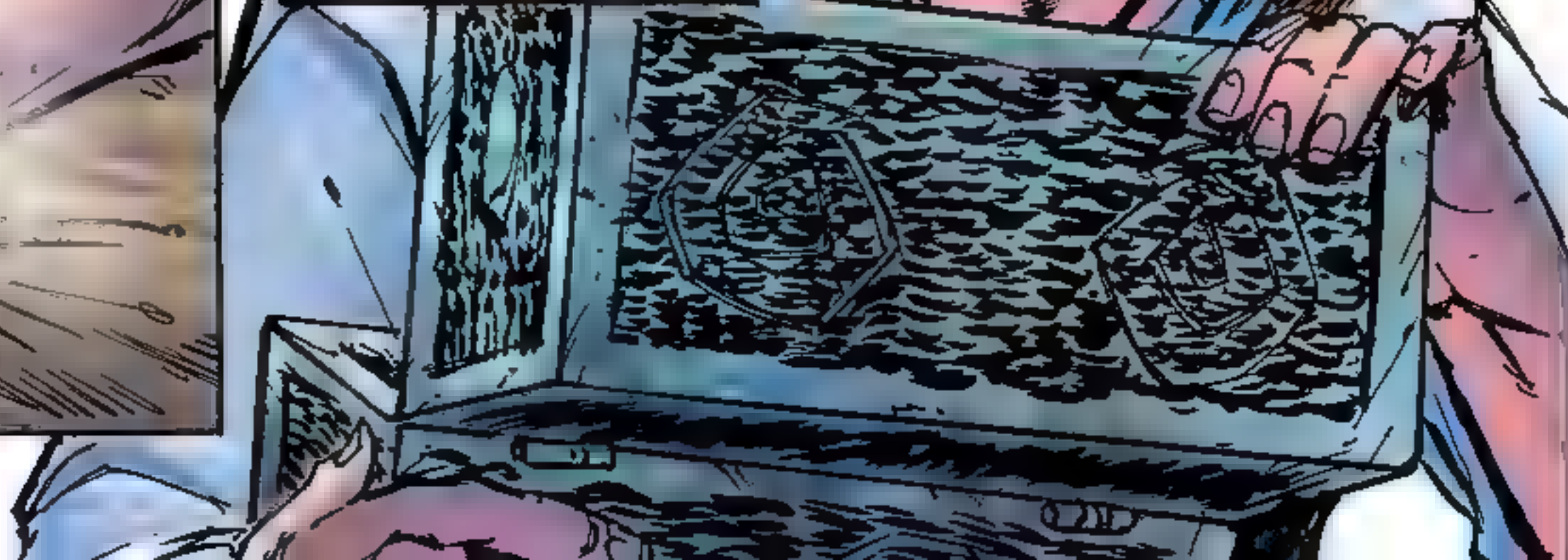
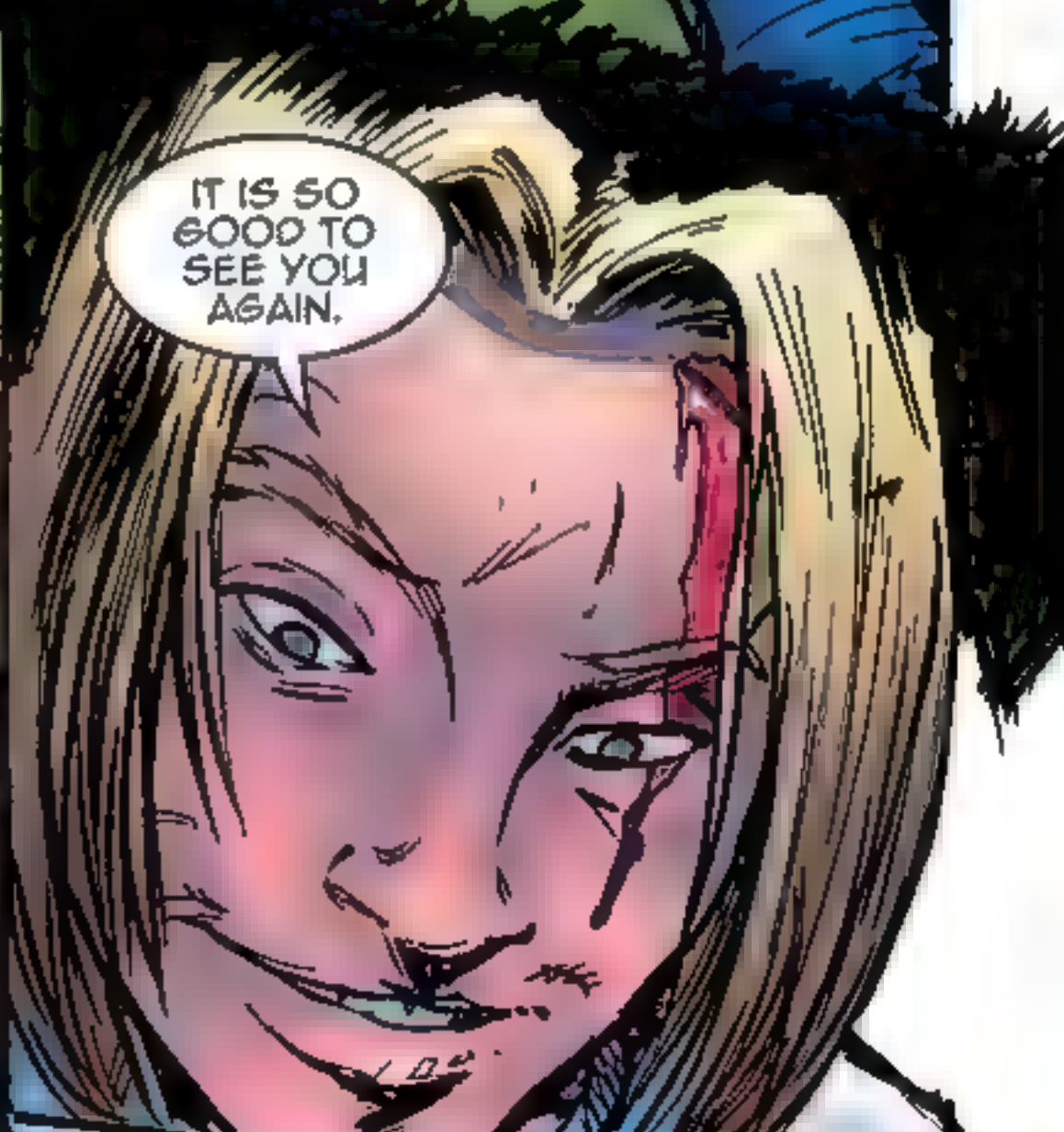
AH...
HOLD
ON...



SAMUEL
POVLAWSKI.



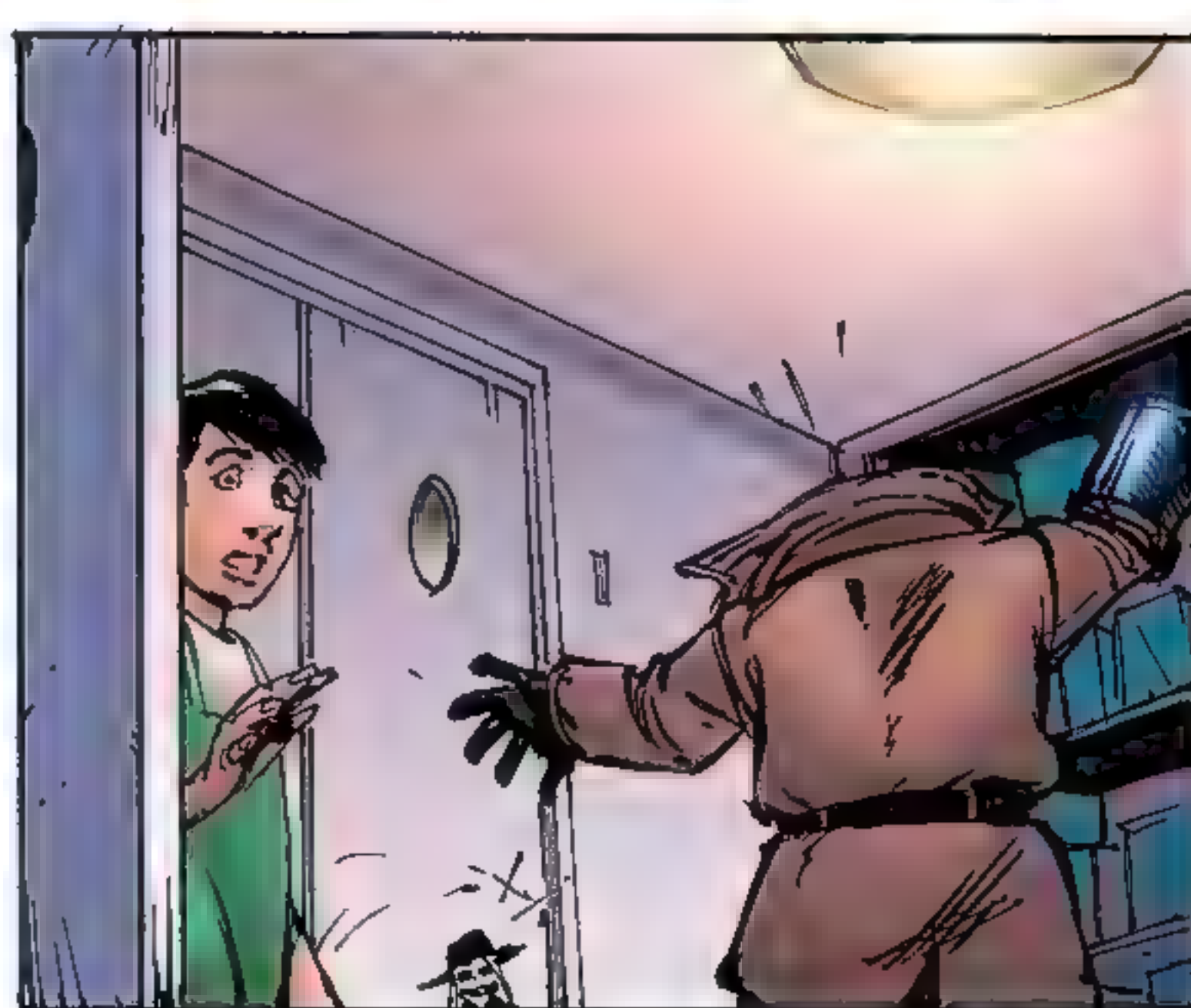






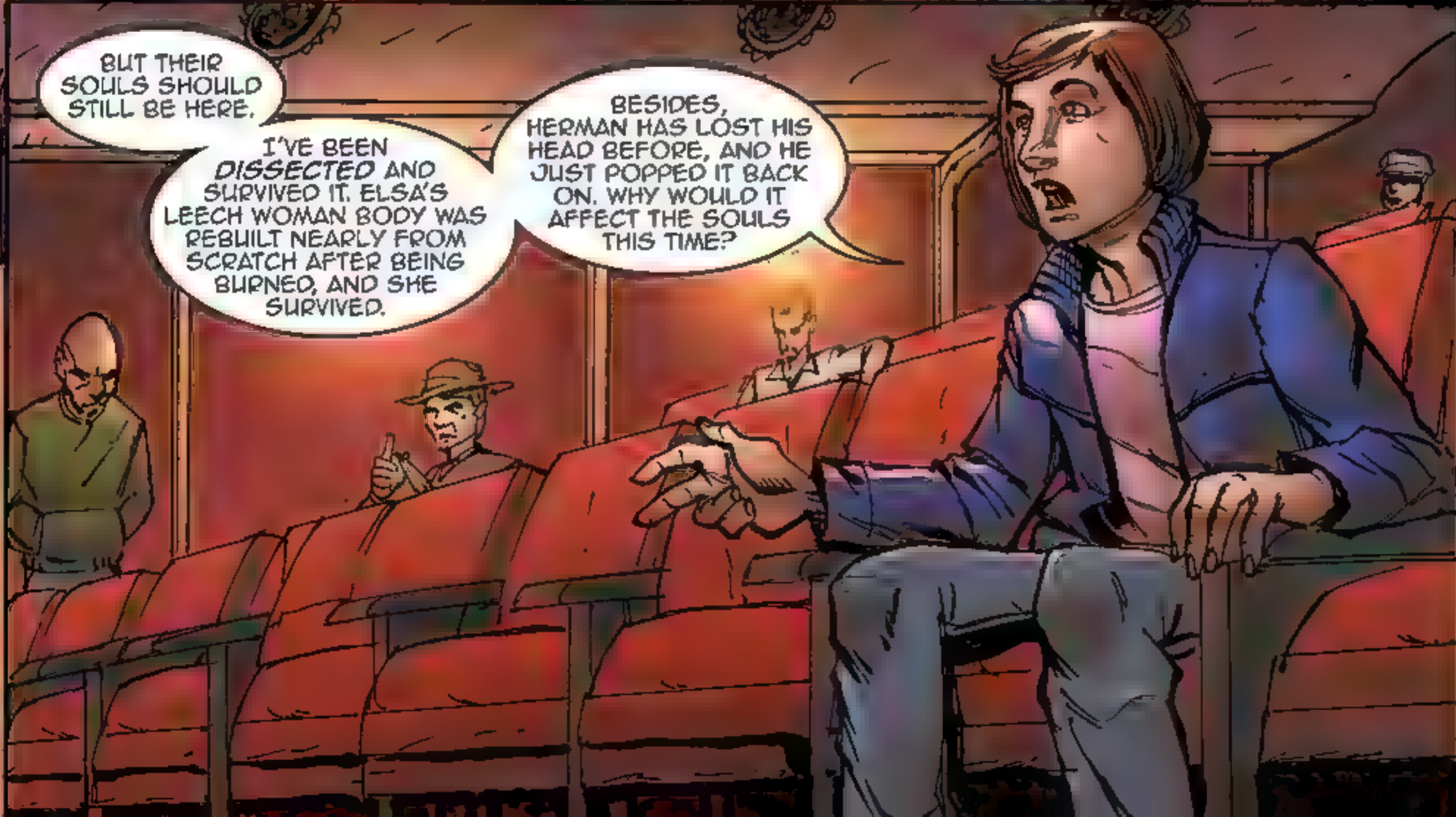
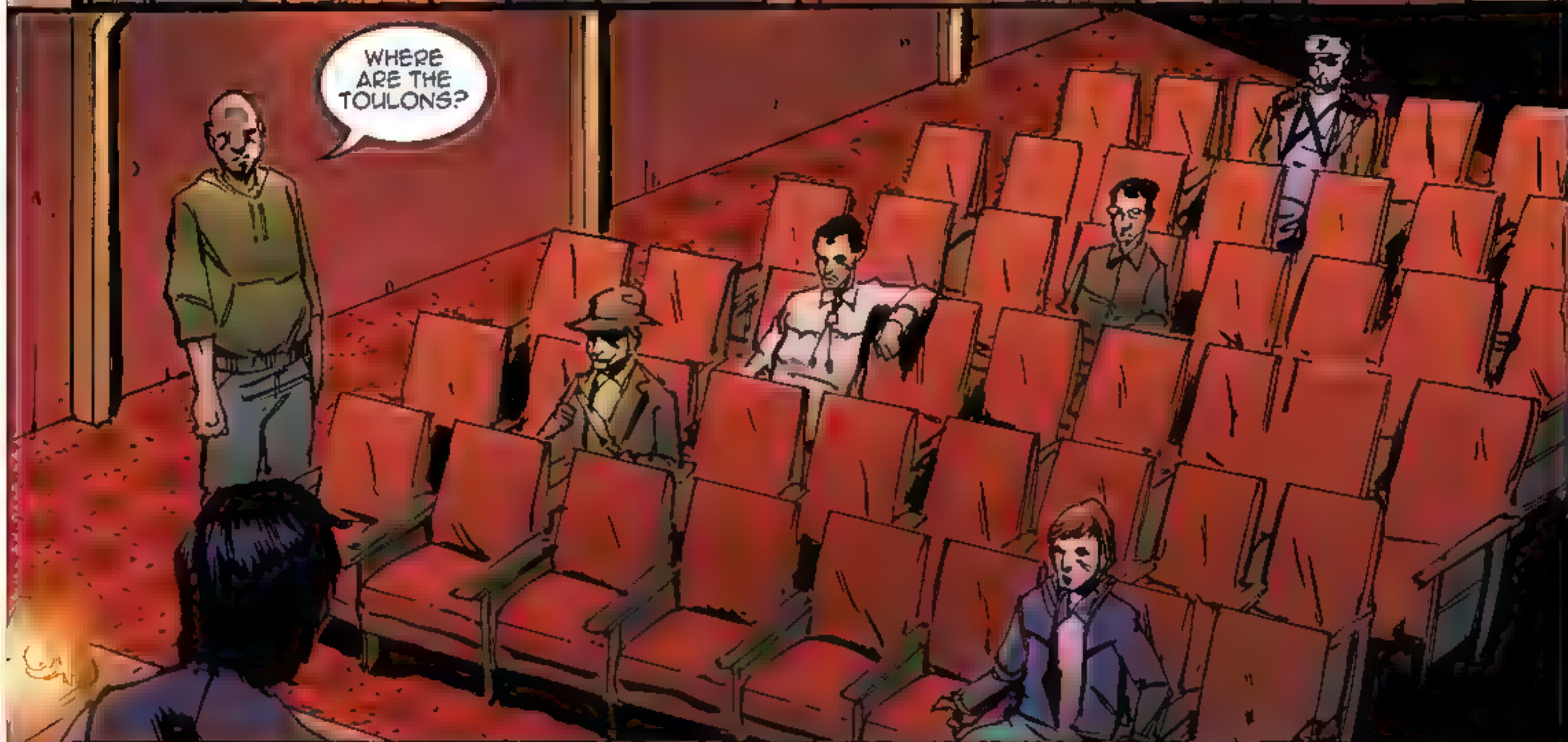
CAMILLE, IS IT?
I THOUGHT IT
WAS TIME WE
HAD A CHAT.

MY MY, AREN'T
YOU JUST A BALL OF
RAGE. I BELIEVE YOU
AND I HAVE SOME
COMMON FRIENDS... AND
COMMON ENEMIES.









WE SAW SAM
COME FROM THE SAME
DIRECTION WE FOUND
THE BODIES IN. THERE'S
SOMETHING TO HIM.
HE'S NOT WHO HE
SAYS.

NAH! HE'S JUST
SOME TEENAGER.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR
SOMETHING MORE...
POWERFUL. LIKE
MAYBE, THAT GUY.

HOLD ON,
SHOOTER—

IT'S A FAIR
QUESTION. HE'S BEEN
HERE SIX MONTHS AND
HAS BARELY SAID A
WORD. YOU DO REMEM-
BER HE WAS REVIVED BY
ANAPA, RIGHT?

WONDER
WHERE HE WAS
WHEN THEY
WERE TAKEN
OUT.

CALM YOURSELF,
SHOOTER. YOU WERE
MISSING FOR A NUMBER
OF YEARS AS WELL AND
HAVEN'T BEEN INCLINED
TO TELL US WHERE
YOU SPENT THEM. BUT
WE'RE NOT POINTING
FINGERS AT YOU.

ARE YOU
SAYING YOU
DID THIS?

NO. JUST
SAYING WE'D ALL
HAVE A HEALTHIER
RELATIONSHIP IF WE
WERE WILLING TO
CALL EACH OTHER
ON OUR SHIT FROM
TIME TO TIME.

MAYBE
SOMEONE
SHOULD BE.

I CAN
ASSURE YOU I
DID NOT ATTACK
OUR FRIENDS.
BUT I WILL FIND
WHOEVER DID.

I BELIEVE
YOU, KAHN.
THANK YOU.

WE ARE VERY
HARD TO KILL, ANTHONY.
JUST BECAUSE THEIR
SOULS WEREN'T PULLED
TO THE THEATER DOESN'T
MEAN THEY'RE "DEAD".
WE'LL FIND A WAY
TO FIX THIS.

I HOPE
YOU'RE RIGHT,
DR. HESS...

"...I FEAR THE
REST OF YOU
ARE IN TROUBLE."



I KNOW
YOU'RE
THERE.

I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN YOU
WOULD BE THE FIRST
TO RECOGNIZE ME.
YOU ALWAYS WERE
THE MOST
OBSERVANT.







**ANTHONY RUTTGAIZER'S EPIC
SUPERHERO STORY CONTINUES!**

the FIRSTHERO

VOLUME 3: WEDNESDAY'S CHILD



ON SALE NOW!

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